



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary
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April 30, 2012

To All Interested Parties:

We are pleased to announce that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is updating the Long-Range State Transportation Plan (Plan).

The Plan sets forth policies and goals that will guide the development of the state transportation system and identify issues and key needs for the state transportation system over the forthcoming 20 plus years. To comply with federal and state regulations, an updated plan will be submitted to the Governor, General Assembly, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration by December 31, 2012.

As the American economy revives itself, Illinois' premier role as a transportation hub for all modes will provide unique opportunities for leveraging key transportation investments that will support economic growth and improved quality of life. IDOT is expanding its multi-modal approach bringing biking, pedestrian, transit, waterways and freight-related issues to the forefront. The Plan will place emphasis on sustainability measures and procedures, human capital needs and the development of performance measures.

The Plan will serve as a framework for all other rail, freight, bike, aviation and transit, addressing long- and short-term needs. This multi-modal approach will establish guidance and priorities for state transportation system decisions and will keep pace with changing priorities and challenges. The sustainability approach will help ensure that IDOT maximizes its ability to provide safe and cost-effective transportation, while considering the greater needs of the state, local communities and the environment.

IDOT will consider the following policy factors in development of the Plan:

- Safety for all transportation users.
- Preserving and managing the existing infrastructure.
- Accommodating future growth in population and employment.
- Support of global economic competitiveness.
- Transportation for underserved populations such as the elderly, low-income persons and persons with disabilities.
- Protecting the environment.
- Securing adequate funding for maintaining, improving and ensuring efficient operation of the transportation systems.
- Protecting the state's valuable transportation assets and ensuring the continued operation of the system.

Additional emphasis will be placed on:

- The development of innovative sustainability solutions within the infrastructure system and a shared commitment to environmental stewardship and innovation.
- Improve efficiency and expand capability of multi-modal connections to move people, goods and services in a combination of two or more transportation modes.
- Creation of a comprehensive statewide freight mobility plan to identify inefficiencies in the system(s) and long- and short-term needs and develop potential solutions for all modes involved.
- An investment in human capital to address local transportation needs and further develop a healthy, skilled, trained labor force increasing the attractiveness of the state of Illinois to business enterprise.

An extensive public outreach effort is a crucial part of the year-long planning process. This will ensure that the identified trends, challenges and transportation policies reflect the needs of Illinois' citizens and transportation users.

As part of the public outreach campaign, a website has been created to communicate and share information about the Plan as it becomes available. Most importantly, stakeholders that use the transportation system will have an opportunity to provide input on the Plan throughout the process through a comment page on the website.

Statewide public outreach meetings are tentatively scheduled for late May to early June. Once the dates, times and locations have been confirmed, they will be posted on the website.

In the meantime, please check out the website at (www.IllinoisTransportationPlan.org), for project updates and to sign up for the mailing list. For tracking purposes it is preferred that any questions or comments be submitted through the website. However, comments or questions can be submitted to the following address:

Illinois Department of Transportation
Statewide Program Planning, Room 307
Attn: Long-Range Plan Coordinator
2300 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, Illinois 62764

Thank you for your interest in Illinois' transportation system.

Sincerely,



Ann L. Schneider
Secretary